

Class Act

King County Solid Waste Division's School Recycling Program Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 3

Summer 1997

Sleuth Out What's Hazardous in School and at Home

Every time I look at a cleaner, I look for those three or four words she taught us...and I think about how I want clean water. Maple Valley student

Are your students studying the environment or ecosystems, exploring chemical reactions, or maybe raising salmon in the classroom? Are you already connecting your science studies with social issues, or would you like to do more of this? Have you participated in the Hazards on the Homefront Teacher Training Workshop? If you answered "yes" to any of the above then it's time to request a stimulating free classroom presentation on household hazardous waste for your students next year.

The program is a highly interactive, hands-on introduction to common hazardous products around the home. Students learn what makes something hazardous and check their knowledge by sorting a large load of real products into safe and hazardous groups. They discover which products are toxic to wildlife and should not get into water supplies. Safer substitutes for hazardous products are introduced and tested during the one-hour program. Other activities may include a how-do-we-get-rid-of-this-stuff debate, a safer substitute Bingo game, a look at where wastewater goes, or a hazardous waste Q&A "social mixer."



Teachers receive a

follow-up packet and Green Cleaning Kit with activity guide. All students receive safer substitute "recipe" cards. Younger students also receive book-marks and a challenge activity to do at home.

The program is available for grades four through twelve. Scheduling is on a first come, first served basis and opens the last week of each August for the following school year. To schedule or get more information, call Gail Gensler, King County Hazardous Waste Management Program, at 689-3082.

Hazardous Waste Poem

by Jason Miller
6th Grader, Beaver Lake Middle School

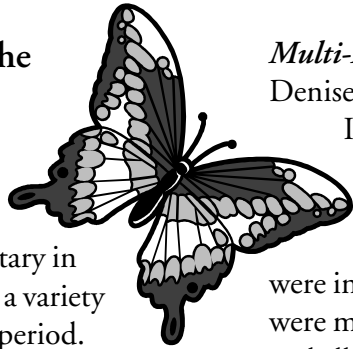
The world is round and stuck with waste,
Bubble gum wrappers and old toothpaste.
Try to cut back on toxic bait,
Buy something else that slugs really hate.
Borax, borax, that's the key,
It's a lot safer for you and me.
Liquid detergent, what a curse,
Buy something else, like a wallet or purse.
Gasoline makes a lot of fires,
It would blow up all four of your tires.
Bug spray is horribly bad,
If you buy something else, you'll be glad.
Don't buy anything to poison rats,
That's a job that belongs to the cats.
If you litter, it sure is a pain,
You have everything to lose and nothing to gain.

Jason Miller is a student in Doug Emery's class.

Crestwood's Defenders of the Planet Earthday Activities

*Submitted by Wendy Shol,
Crestwood Elementary*

Members of the Defenders of the Planet Club at Crestwood Elementary in Kent celebrated Earthday '97 with a variety of activities spanning a two-week period. The club sponsored an all-school plant sale to earn money to purchase materials for a school butterfly garden and birdhouses. Other celebration events included bedding two worm bins and recycling 1,100 pounds of aluminum cans. The club was featured on PBS TV's "The Great American Clean-Up" special on April 30, which highlighted the club's environmental activities for the '96-'97 school year. The club's biggest challenge was sponsoring a bill to designate the common green darner dragonfly as the Washington State insect. A special bill-signing assembly was held with Governor Locke at Crestwood Elementary on April 10.



Hazards on the Homefront Mini Grant Reports

The King County Solid Waste Division awarded four mini-grants this year to teachers participating in the *Hazards on the Homefront* program. Last issue, we described how Linda Reiter, Black Diamond Elementary, used her award. Here is a description of the other three projects.

Green Cleaning Kits

Tessie Herrera's class at Ingraham High School used mini-grant funds to purchase supplies for Green Cleaning Kits. The students are assembling the kits and demonstrating their use to their neighbors.

Multi-Media Project

Denise Battison's class at Pine Lake Middle School in Issaquah used its mini-grant funds to do multi-media presentations on household hazardous waste using Digital Chisel software. Approximately 120 students and their families were involved in or affected by the project. Students were made aware of hazardous items in the home, and all around them, for that matter. They learned how to buy products wisely, and how to properly dispose of products which are no longer used in the home.

Student Consumer Report

Students in Janet Charnley's class at the Evergreen School are raising awareness in the school community about which household products are hazardous. Their goals are to train other students so they can analyze and rate cleaning products to determine how hazardous they are and then provide information about less hazardous products. This information will allow families to make wise choices as consumers.

To carry out their goals, Evergreen students created an information guide that rates the hazards of common household products and lists safer alternatives. They used funds from a mini-grant to finance printing, supplies, and mailing costs.

Win Region-Wide Recognition for Your Project!

To recognize the impressive efforts that many schools, teachers, and students are making to raise awareness about household hazardous waste, King County has begun placing ads in *Seattle's Child/Eastside Parent* beginning in June of 1997 and then periodically after that. These ads are expected to highlight particular projects that teachers and students have undertaken to raise awareness about household hazardous waste and on ways to protect both their personal health and the environment. If you and your students or your school have done a household hazardous waste project you are proud of, we would like to hear about it so it can be considered for this recognition. Please contact

Jennifer Howell or Vicki King at Triangle Associates (206) 583-0655 who will collect the needed information.

Household Hazardous Waste Workshops for Teachers for 1997-1998

King County is actively seeking schools districts to serve as educational co-sponsors for its Hazards on the Homefront workshops for teachers in 1997-1998. Over the last two years, more than 170 teachers from elementary, middle and high schools in school districts throughout the County have taken this training. The training consists of a seven-hour workshop for teachers that provides well-designed, easy to understand background information and instruction on how to incorporate household hazardous waste issues into a wide variety of subjects for students from grades 4 through 12.

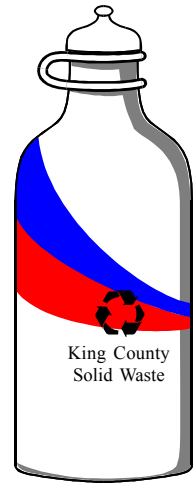
First Workshop Scheduled October 29, Shoreline Center: This day-long workshop is being scheduled in coordination with Seattle's School-to-Work Program, but it is open to all interested teachers. Additional workshops will be scheduled in the fall and winter. If you are interested in having workshops in your district next year or in attending a workshop, please call Jennifer Howell or Vicki King at Triangle Associates (206) 583-0655.

We currently are discussing workshop dates with Issaquah, Renton, and the Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools.

Great Green Teams in Action

Eleven King County elementary school Green Teams have been awarded water bottles made from 100% recycled milk jugs. These Green Teams have accomplished school-wide action projects that reduce waste and raise awareness in their class and among the student body. Projects cover topics from recycling and making less wasteful choices to reusing (or re-creating) and composting. The following Green Teams have done outstanding work to make a difference at school, at home, and in our environment:

Black Diamond Elementary, Linda Reiter, advisor
Campbell Hill Elementary, Christine Corwin, advisor
Campbell Hill Elementary, Kay Moilanen, advisor
Crestwood Elementary, Wendy Shol, advisor
Des Moines Elementary, Jan Anderson, advisor
Discovery Elementary, Carol Jacobs, advisor
Mirror Lake Elementary, Chris Andrews, advisor
St. Luke Elementary, Mrs. Connell, advisor
Southern Heights Elementary, Julie Ginnochio, advisor
Valley Christian School, Mrs. Bartlett, advisor
West Mercer Elementary, Di Di Kearsley, advisor



Some of their cool projects include:

- Sewing loops on cloth towels to make reusable towels instead of using paper towels, and presenting this idea to all of the classes in the school.
- Writing letters to candy companies requesting that all wrappers be recyclable.
- Creating posters to educate others about what is recyclable and what is garbage. Writing messages to encourage students to make smart choices when they pack their school lunch.
- Holding a 'Transportation Day,' and rewarding students who walked, rode a bike, or took the bus.
- Carrying out a recycling contest or holding 'spot checks' to ensure that the correct materials go into the recycling bins and garbage cans.
- Collecting 500-600 grocery bags from a local store, having the student body decorate the bags with messages about reuse, recycling, choosing recycled and Earth Day ideas, and returning the bags to the store for customer use.
- Organizing 'Waste Free Lunch Days' both for their Green Team and school-wide.
- Adding aluminum can recycling where there was none before.




"Inspiring"

SIGN UP IS NOW! "Wiz Kids At Home" Assembly Program



"Superb"

This is the LAST year that this fabulous free assembly program — "Wiz Kids At Home" — will be presented to students in grades K-6. Already more than a third of the 60 available programs have been scheduled for 1997-98, so sign up quickly to make sure your school's students don't miss this captivating and zany assembly.



"Best assembly
I've seen!"

The focus of the program is to make students aware of choices they can make to help reduce waste and close the loop by buying recycled products. In addition to the live assembly show, classroom workshops are offered on a choice of eight different topics.

Teachers also receive materials and support that expand on the concepts presented in the assembly. Students can extend their learning by taking on waste reduction and recycling projects at school or in the community and earn prizes.

Please call Triangle Associates at (206) 583-0655 to indicate your interest in scheduling this program for the 1997-98 school year.

Coming Next Fall: Artists in Residence Program

The King County Solid Waste Division will pilot a new program at the secondary level next fall. The Division will hire artists to work with classes or campus environmental clubs at middle and high schools on projects that focus on themes related to waste reduction, recycling, and household hazardous waste. The artists will be selected this summer and will represent different media such as visual, performance, literary, mixed media or other. Eight schools will be selected to participate in the program, which offers the opportunity for students to exercise their creativity in designing and carrying out a project that sends a message to their classmates and the community about the environment. In selecting the schools, the Division's goal is to ensure that the various regions of the County are represented. Four middle schools and four high schools will be selected. Teachers interested in involving their students in this program should contact Bill Smith at 296-4407 who is compiling a list of potential participating schools.



King County Solid Waste Division
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*Deadline for the next issue: August 15.
Send in your information to the above
address or email to
jhowell@triangleassociates.com*



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